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MONTANA STATE LIBRARY
930 East Lyndale Avenue
Helena, Montana 59601

MAP OF
HISTORICAL
MUSEUMS
IN
MONTANA

Produced by the
Montana Multi-Cultural History Project

February 1980

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by a planning grant from the National Endowment for
the Humanities to the Montana Historical Society.

LISTING OF MONTANA'S HISTORICAL MUSEUMS

ANACONDA:
Copper Village Museum & Arts Center. 8th & Main
Hours: Tues-Sun 9am-5m, Sat-Sun 1-5pm. Closed
holidays. No adm.
Emphasis: History of area. Indians to early merchants.

BAKER:
OT Fallon County Museum: SE corner of Courthouse
Complex. 1st St. W. & 10th
Hours: (Tentative) Starting in June: Wed, Sat & Sun
2-4pm
Emphasis: Fallon County history

BIGFORK:
Bigfork in Miniature: Village Square Arts Center
Hours: May 15 to end of June: Mon-Sat 10am-6pm;
end of June to Labor Day: Mon-Sat 10am-6pm. No adm.
Emphasis: Old homestead and logging town

BIG SANDY:
Virgile Mercantile. 15 miles so. of Big Sandy
Hours: June to Aug. Daily. Other times by appt. No
adm
Emphasis: Old general store, antiques.

BILLINGS:
Western Heritage Center, 2822 Montana Avenue
Hours: Tues-Sat 10am-5pm; Sun 1-5pm. No adm.
Emphasis: Western history. Indians.

Yellowstone Art Center, 401 No. 27th St
Hours: Tues-Fri 11am-5pm; Wed-Thurs 7-9pm; Sat-
Sun noon-5pm. No adm.
Emphasis: Paintings, prints, Montana pottery, 25
Huffman photos.

**Yellowstone County Museum, Logan International
Airport**
Hours: Tues-Sat 10:30am-noon, 1-5pm; Sun 2-5pm.
No adm.
Emphasis: Old West; Indian artifacts.

BOZEMAN:
Gallatin Pioneers Museum: Courthouse, second floor
Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-5pm. No adm.
Emphasis: Artifacts from pioneer settlement of Gal-
latin; Indians

**Museum of the Rockies, Montana State University, 505
7th & Kagy Blvd.**
Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-4 30pm; Sat-Sun 1-4 30pm.
No adm.
Emphasis: Physical and social heritage of the Northern
Rockies.

BROWNING:
Museum of Montana Wildlife. Hwy. 2 & 89
Hours: Summer: Daily 8am-6pm. Other times by appt.
Emphasis: Wildlife and environment of area. Black-
feet sculpture

**Museum of the Plains Indian: Hwy. 2 & 89, west of
Browning**
Hours: June 1 to Sept 30: Daily 9am-5pm, Oct 1 to
May 31: Mon-Fri 10am-4 30pm. Closed holidays.
No adm.
Emphasis: Art and artifacts of eleven Plains Indian
tribes

BUTTE:
Mineral Museum, Montana Tech, West Park Street
Hours: Winter: Mon-Fri 8am-5pm; mid-June to Sept:
Daily 8am-5pm. No adm.
Emphasis: 14,000 mineral specimens.

**World Museum of Mining, Hell Roarin' Gulch, West
Park Street**
Hours: Mid-June to Labor Day: Daily 9am-9pm; Rest
of year: Tues-Sun 10am-5pm. Closed Nov to March.
No adm.
Emphasis: Complete 1905 mining camp and mining
equipment.

CHESTER:
Liberty County Museum, 210 Second St. E.
Hours: Last Sat. in May to Sept 15: Daily 2-5pm, 7-9pm
Other times by appt. No adm.
Emphasis: Farming; homesteading.

CHINOOK:
Blaine County Museum: 501 Indiana
Hours: Tues-Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm; Mon 10am-
5pm. No adm.
Emphasis: County history.

CHOTEAU:
Teton Trail Village Museum. Hwy. 287 & 89
Hours: May 25 to Sept 15: Daily 10am-6pm.
Emphasis: Farming, Blackfeet and pioneer artifacts.

CIRCLE:
McCone County Museum: Main Street, 2 blocks west
of Hwy. 200
Hours: June to Aug: Tues-Sat 2-5pm. Other times by
appt. No adm.
Emphasis: History of area.

COLUMBUS:
Stillwater County Historical Gallery, Civic Center
Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-noon, 1-5pm.
Emphasis: 2300 historical photos of area.

CROW AGENCY:
Custer Battlefield, Off Hwy. 40
Hours: All year. Daily 8am-4 30pm. Expanded sum-
mer hours. No adm.
Emphasis: Battle of the Little Bighorn; Plains Indian
Wars, a few artifacts; mostly Custer papers.

DARBY:
Darby Pioneer Memorial Museum: Hwy. 93, Council
Park
Hours: Memorial Day to Labor Day: Tues-Sat 1-5pm.
Other times by appt. No adm.
Emphasis: Darby settlement 1800-1888.

DEER LODGE:
Grant-Kolrs Ranch, West Main Street
Hours: Summer: Daily 8am-6 30pm; Winter: Daily
9am-4 30pm; No adm.
Emphasis: House and work buildings of early Mon-
tana ranch.

**Powell County Museum & Arts Foundation, 308
Cottonwood Ave**
Hours: Wed-Sun noon-8pm. No adm.
Emphasis: History of area including State Prison and
first college in Montana

DILLON:
Beaverhead County Museum, 15 So. Montana
Hours: June to Aug: Mon-Fri 9am-7 30pm; Sept to
May: Mon-Fri 9am-4pm. No adm.
Emphasis: Beaverhead County history.

EKALAKA:
Carter County Museum, Basement of High School
Hours: Tues-Sun 1-4pm. No adm.
Emphasis: Paleontological specimens and artifacts of
human settlement.

FORSYTH:
Rosebud County Pioneer Museum: Forsyth
Hours: May 15 to Sept 15: Mon-Sat 9am-7pm;
Sun 1-7pm.
Emphasis: Pioneer settlement

FORT BENTON:
Fort Benton Museum, Front & 11th streets
Hours: June 1 to Labor Day: Daily 9am-9pm; Mid-
May to June 1 and day after Labor Day to mid-Sept:
Daily 1-5pm.
Emphasis: Missouri River history; 500 photos; dio-
ramas of Fort Benton.

FORT PECK:
Fort Peck Museum, Power Plant #1
Hours: Memorial Day to Labor Day: Daily 8 30am-
5 30pm. Other times by appt
Emphasis: Fossils

FORT SMITH:
Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area, Off
Hwy. 13
Hours: Memorial Day to Labor Day: Daily 8am-5pm;
April, May, Sept: Sat-Sun 8am-5pm.
Emphasis: Crow Indian history; Yellowtail Dam.

GLASGOW:
Pioneer Museum, Hwy. 2 west
Hours: Memorial Day to Labor Day: 10am-6pm
Other times by appt. No adm.
Emphasis: History of area, good Indian collection.

GLENDIVE:
Frontier Gateway Museum, Belle Prairie Rd. off I-94
1 mile east of Glendive
Hours: June to Aug: Daily 9am-noon, 1-5pm; May
& Sept: Daily 1-5pm. No adm.
Emphasis: Montana prehistory to present; home-
steading

GREAT FALLS:
Cascade County Historical Museum, 1400 First Ave
No., Paris Gibson Square
Hours: Tues-Fri 10am-5pm; Sat-Sun 1-4pm.
Emphasis: Cascade County history.

Paris Gibson Square, 1400 First Ave. No.
Hours: Tues-Fri 10am-5pm; Sat-Sun 1-4pm. No adm.
Emphasis: Area cultural center; Montana art;
genealogy society

Charles M. Russell Museum, 1201 Fourth Ave. No
Hours: Mon-Sat 10am-5pm; Sun 1-5pm. Adm.
Emphasis: Western art

HAMILTON:
Bitterroot Heritage Center, Old Courthouse
Hours: Mon-Fri 1-4pm. No adm.
Emphasis: Bitterroot Valley history; archives.
Ricketts Memorial Museum, Old Courthouse
Hours: Mon-Fri 1-4pm. No adm.
Emphasis: History of Spotted Fever Research.

HAVRE:
H. Earl Clack Memorial Museum, Fairgrounds on
Hwy. 2 west of Havre
Hours: Memorial Day to Labor Day: Daily 9am-9pm
Other times by appt. No adm.
Emphasis: Archeology and interpretation of buffalo
jump site; area history.

**Northern Montana College Collections: Northern
Montana College, Math-Science Building**
Hours: During school sessions: Mon-Fri 8am-5pm.
No adm.
Emphasis: Natural history; Indian artifacts.

HELENA:
Frontier Town Museum, Hwy. 12 west of Helena
Hours: April 1 to Oct. 30: Daily 9-11am. Winter
hours vary
Emphasis: Indian artifacts.

Montana Historical Society, 225 North Roberts
Hours: Winter: Mon-Fri 8am-5pm; Sat 9am-5pm;
Summer: Daily 8am-6pm.
Emphasis: History of Montana: prehistoric to present,
C.M. Russell art.

KALISPELL:
Conrad Mansion, Woodland Ave. between 3rd & 4th
Streets East
Hours: May 15 to Oct 15: Daily guided tours 10am-
5 30pm, Adults \$2; children \$1.
Emphasis: Restored 1895 Norman style mansion.

Hockaday Center for the Arts, 2nd Ave. E. & 3rd St
Hours: Tues-Sat 10am-5pm. No adm.
Emphasis: Montana art

LEWISTOWN:
Central Montana Museum, 408 East Main
Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm
Emphasis: Area history

LIBBY:
Heritage Museum, Hwy. 2 east of Libby
Hours: June to Sept: Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sun 1-5pm
No adm.
Emphasis: Area history, especially 1880-1920

**Libby Branch: Montana Historical Society, Star
Route 2**
Hours: May to mid-Sept: Daily 9 30am-6pm. Office
open Oct to April: Mon-Fri 8am-4 30pm
Emphasis: History of area: logging, mining, home-
steading

LIVINGSTON:
Park County Museum, 118 West Chinook
Hours: June 1 to Labor Day: Tues 2-5pm, 7-9pm.
Other times by appt. No adm.
Emphasis: Archeology; area history

LOMA:
Earth Science Museum, 106 Main St
Hours: June 1 to Sept 30: Daily 9am-9pm. Other
times by appt. No adm.
Emphasis: Earth sciences, Indian artifacts

MALTA:
Phillips County Historical Museum, Old Carnegie
Library Building
Hours: Will open in September 1980.
Emphasis: Homesteading, cattle era

MILES CITY:
Celfins' Old West Gallery, 1600 Main Street
Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm; Sat 9am-4pm. No adm.
Emphasis: 400 Huffman photos; 1100 negatives on file.

**Range Riders Museum, Hwy. 10 & 12 west of Miles
City**
Hours: June 1 to Sept 1: Daily 8am-6pm; April 1 to
Nov 1 & Sept 1 to Nov 1: Daily 9am-5pm. Closed
Nov to April. Adults \$1; Children 12-18 50c.
Emphasis: Early range life, ranching

MISSOULA:
Fort Missoula Historical Museum: Fort Missoula,
Building 322, West on South Avenue
Hours: Tues-Sun noon-5pm. No adm.
Emphasis: Timber industry, military, commerce,
agriculture

PLENTYWOOD:
Sheridan County Historical Museum, Plentywood
Hours: May to Oct: Tues-Sun 1-5pm. Other times
by appt. No adm.
Emphasis: Homestead era.

ROUNDUP:
Musselshell Valley Historical Museum, 524 First
Street West
Hours: May to Oct: Daily 1-5pm. No adm.
Emphasis: Pioneer era, cabin, 5-room house, coal
mine

SCOBEY:
Daniels County Museum: Scobey
Hours: Summer: Daily 1-5pm. Adults \$2, Children \$1.
Emphasis: Farming, a "Pioneer Town."

SHELBY:
Marais Museum of History & Art, Basement of County
Library
Hours: May 1 to Oct 1. Mon-Sat 1-5pm. 7-9pm
Rest of year: Only Thurs hours. Other times by
appt. No adm.
Emphasis: Homesteading, early industry

SIDNEY:
J.K. Ralston Museum & Art Center, 221 Fifth Street SW
Hours: Daily 1-5pm. No adm.
Emphasis: Homesteading.

STANFORD:
Judith Basin Museum, Stanford
Hours: Memorial Day to Labor Day: Tues-Fri 9am-
noon, 1-5pm; Sat-Sun 1-5pm.
Emphasis: Variety of unusual collections; early photos
of area.

SUPERIOR:
Mineral County Historical Museum: Old hospital
building
Hours: June 1 to Sept 15: Tues-Fri 7-9pm. Other
times by appt. No adm.
Emphasis: County history

TOWNSEND:
Broadwater County Museum: First block off Broad-
way on North Oak
Hours: Mid-May to mid-Sept: Tues-Fri 12 30-5pm;
Sat-Sun 1-5pm. Other times by appt. No adm.
Emphasis: Local history

UTICA:
Utica Museum, Main Street
Hours: Memorial Day to Labor Day: Sat-Sun 10am-
5pm. Other times by appt.
Emphasis: Homestead era

VIRGINIA CITY:
Bovary Restorations, Virginia & Nevada Cities
Hours: May 30 to Sept 10: 8 30am-7pm, Adults \$1 50;
Students 75c; Children with adults free
Emphasis: Social history; 1860-1900

WEST GLACIER:
Glacier National Park Museum: West Glacier
Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-4 30pm. No adm.
Emphasis: History of Glacier Park

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS:
Castle Museum, Hwy. 89 & 12
Hours: May 15 to Oct 15: Daily 9am-6pm. Adults \$1;
Children under 12 free
Emphasis: Restored stockman's mansion.

WINDHAM:
Sod Buster Museum, Hwy. 87, 5 miles SE of Wind-
ham
Hours: June to Aug: 8am-6pm. No adm.
Emphasis: Farming; mining.

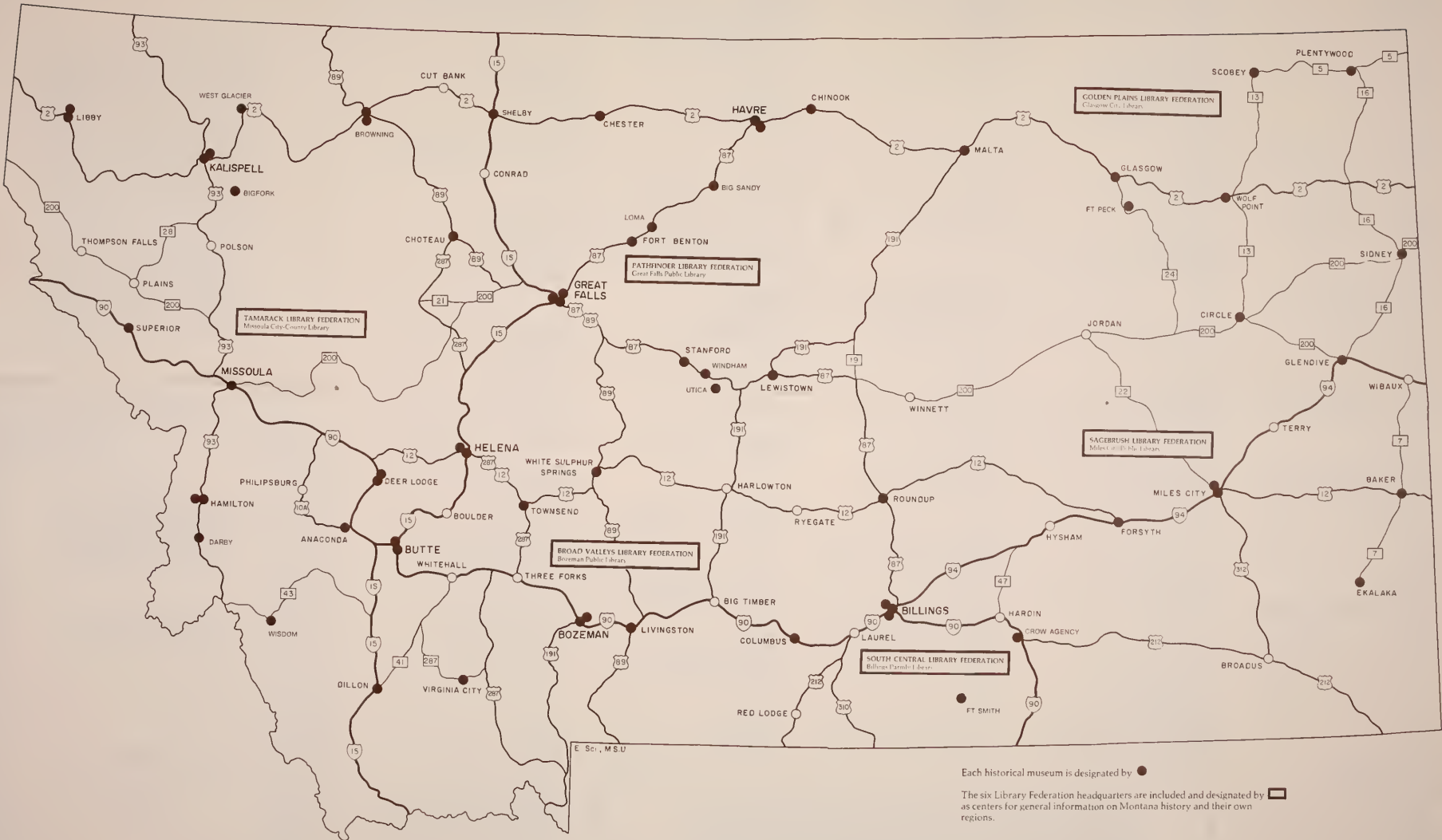
WISDOM:
Big Hole National Battlefield, Off Hwy. 43 west of
Wisdom
Hours: Memorial Day to Labor Day: Daily 8am-6pm;
Rest of year: Daily 8am-5pm. No adm.
Emphasis: 1877 Nez Perce War, Battle of the Big Hole.

WOLF POINT:
Wolf Point Area Historical Society Museum, 220 Second
Ave. So.
Hours: May 15 to Sept 15: Mon-Fri 10am-6pm.
No adm.
Emphasis: Homesteading, farming, ranching

Museums in the state vary greatly in physical size, the size and depth of their collections, and in their presentation of artifacts. In some, artifacts of many types are presented without thematic interpretation, or others, exhibitions are designed to interpret a particular topic or theme. Major strengths of collections, as identified by the museums, are indicated in the listing under emphasis. Some of the state's monuments and parks have special historical significance and interpretive displays. Those include the following five sites which should be of particular interest: Bannack State Park (off Highway 278 between Jackson and Dillon); Chief Plenty Crows Memorial State Monument (1 mile W. of Pryor on the Crow Indian Reservation); Fort Owen State Monument (on U.S. 93 S. of Missoula at Greenville); Picagator Caves State Monument (7 miles SE. of Billings with access from U.S. 1-40 at Lockwood turnoff); and Ulum Pishkun (S. of Great Falls) on U.S. I-15 approximately 10 miles, then 4 miles W. on county road from Ulm milepost 274). For a more detailed listing of monuments, parks, and historic sites, please refer to the Montana Historic Preservation Plan, Volumes I-III, compiled by the Montana Fish and Game Commission in July, 1975.

MAP OF MONTANA'S HISTORICAL MUSEUMS

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February 1980



This map is one result of a survey of Montana's historical museums and their holdings conducted by questionnaire and personal visits by the Montana Multi-Cultural History Project in the Summer of 1979. It is intended to encourage Montanans to visit their local museums and those in other parts of the state so that we might all come to better understand the rich histories of our various regions and their people. And it is hoped that it will assist visitors in better understanding the experiences of the people who have lived on the vast land over which they are travelling. A more extensive listing of historical museum holdings also was published by the Montana History Project in February 1980. Entitled "A Guide to Montana's Historical Museums," it is designed to be useful to museums, libraries, and the public.

Some museums will be missing either because our survey did not bring them to our attention, because we were unable to get information about them, or because they have come to be since the information was gathered. Please send any additions or corrections you have (including museum name, location, curator, telephone number) to the address below.

The locations of the six Federations of Libraries in the state are included because of their ability to serve as information centers for their areas. Please feel free to ask them for information and materials about aspects of Montana's history in which you are interested.

Special thanks go to Dr. Robert Taylor of Montana State University for his expert and gracious assistance in developing this map, and to Melinda Quivik for preparing it. Thanks also to Brian Shovers and Dan Gallacher for their work in gathering the information from which this was prepared. Without the cooperation of people in museums across the state, this map and the companion Guide would not have been possible. We are very grateful to them.

Valerie Peacock, Director
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Send corrections or additions to this map to:

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